FIG. 1

FIG. 2

180

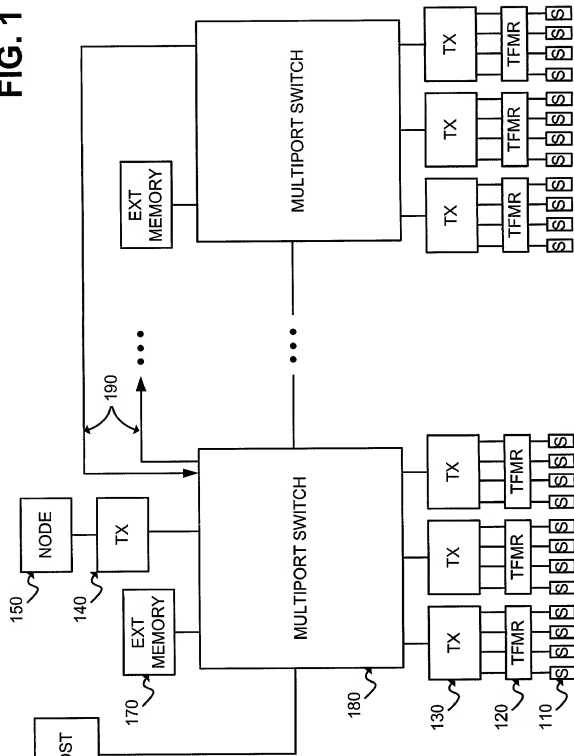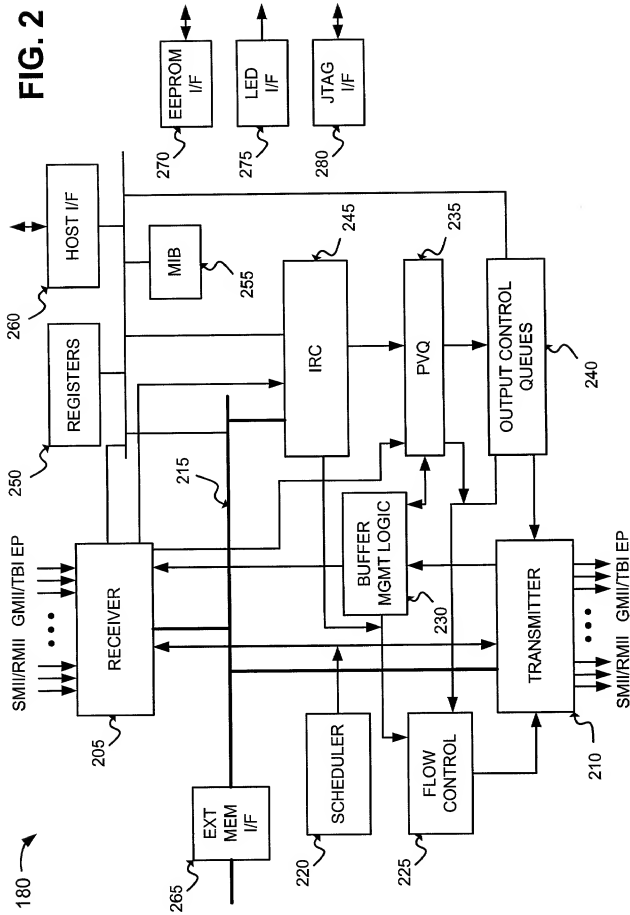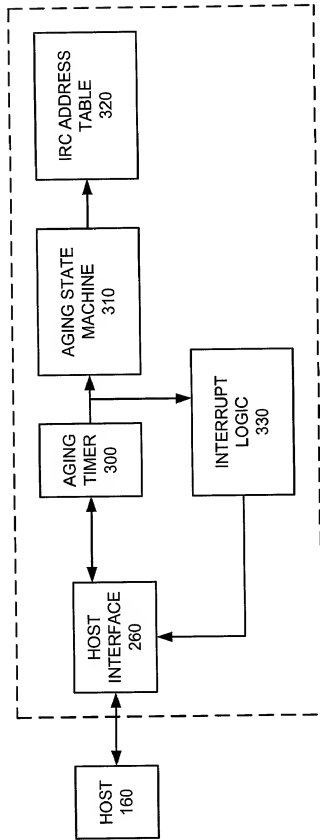| HOST 160 | | HOST INTERFACE 260 | AGING TIMER 300 | AGING STATE MACHINE 310 | IRC ADDRESS TABLE 320 |

INTERRUPT LOGIC 330

FIG. 3

400

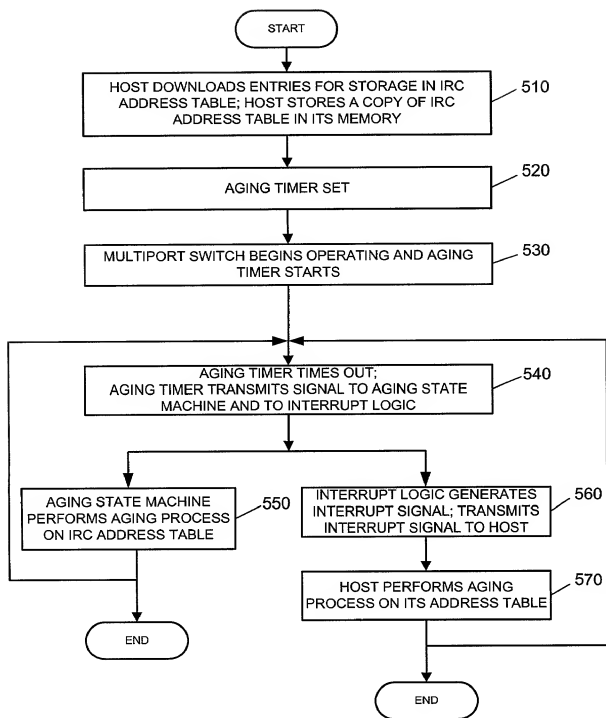| STATIC BIT	HIT BIT	VLAN INDEX	PORT VECTOR	MAC ADDRESS	NEXT POINTER

FIG. 4

START

HOST DOWNLOADS ENTRIES FOR STORAGE IN IRC
ADDRESS TABLE; HOST STORES A COPY OF IRC
ADDRESS TABLE IN ITS MEMORY — 510

AGING TIMER SET — 520

MULTIPORT SWITCH BEGINS OPERATING AND AGING
TIMER STARTS — 530

AGING TIMER TIMES OUT;
AGING TIMER TRANSMITS SIGNAL TO AGING STATE
MACHINE AND TO INTERRUPT LOGIC — 540

AGING STATE MACHINE
PERFORMS AGING PROCESS
ON IRC ADDRESS TABLE — 550

INTERRUPT LOGIC GENERATES
INTERRUPT SIGNAL; TRANSMITS
INTERRUPT SIGNAL TO HOST — 560

HOST PERFORMS AGING
PROCESS ON ITS ADDRESS TABLE — 570

END

END

FIG. 5